communication module having a wireless transceiver and adapted to perform the functionality of the lower layers of the communication protocol stack, the base module comprising:

a base memory adapted to store the higher layers of the communication protocol stack; and

a base processor adapted to cooperate with the communication module to effect wireless communication by the communication module, the base processor being adapted to perform the functionality of the higher layers of the communication protocol stack stored in the base memory.

22. (New) The base module of claim 21 wherein the base processor's performance of the functionality of the higher layers of the communication protocol stack enables the base processor to cooperate with a communication module supporting substantially any type of wireless transceiver to effect wireless communication by the communication module.

23. (New) The base module of claim 21 wherein the base module is configured to receive the communication module in an assembled position which communicatively couples the base processor and a module processor of the communication module.

24. (New) The base module of claim 23 further comprising:

a base connector that is communicatively coupled to the base processor and that matingly engages a module connector disposed on the communication module upon receipt of the communication module into the base module in the assembled position.

25. (New) The base module of claim 21 wherein the higher layers of the communication protocol stack comprise power saving functionality.

26. (New) The base module of claim 25 wherein the power saving functionality comprises support for sleeping terminals.

27.   (New) The base module of claim 21 wherein the higher layers of the communication protocol stack stored by the base memory and performed by the base processor comprise a sessions layer.

28.   (New) The base module of claim 21 wherein the higher layers of the communication protocol stack stored by the base memory and performed by the base processor comprise a transport layer.

29.   (New) The base module of claim 21 wherein the higher layers of the communication protocol stack stored by the base memory and performed by the base processor comprise a network layer.

30.   (New) The base module of claim 21 wherein the base processor does not perform at least one lower layer function of the communication protocol stack, instead allowing the communication module to perform said at least one lower layer function of the communication protocol stack.

31.   (New) The base module of claim 30 wherein the base processor does not perform the functionality of a physical layer of the communication protocol stack, instead allowing the communication module to perform the functionality of the physical layer.

32.   (New) The base module of claim 30 wherein the base processor does not perform the functionality of a data link layer of the communication protocol stack, instead allowing the communication module to perform the functionality of the data link layer.

33.   (New) The base module of claim 21 wherein the base memory is adapted to store, and the base processor is adapted to perform the functionality of, a first subset of a network layer of the communication protocol stack, and wherein the base processor does not perform the functionality of a second subset of the network layer, instead allowing the communication module to perform the functionality of the second subset of the network layer.

34.   (New) A communication module for use in a portable terminal utilizing a communication protocol stack having higher and lower layers, the portable terminal also comprising a base module adapted to perform the functionality of the higher layers of the communication protocol stack, the communication module comprising:

a wireless transceiver;

a module memory adapted to store the lower layers of the communication protocol stack; and

a module processor adapted to cooperate with the base module to effect wireless communication by the wireless transceiver, the module processor being adapted to perform the functionality of the lower layers of the communication protocol stack stored in the module memory.

35.   (New) The communication module of claim 34 wherein the communication module is configured to couple to the base module in an assembled position which communicatively couples the module processor and a base processor of the base module.

36.   (New) The communication module of claim 35 further comprising:
a module connector disposed on the communication module and that matingly engages a base connector that is communicatively coupled to the base processor upon coupling of the communication module with the base module in the assembled position.

37.   (New) The communication module of claim 34 wherein the lower layers of the communication protocol stack comprise power saving functionality.

38.   (New) The communication module of claim 37 wherein the power saving functionality comprises support for sleeping terminals.

39.   (New) The communication module of claim 34 wherein the lower layers of the communication protocol stack comprise support for roaming.

40.   (New) The communication module of claim 34 wherein the lower layers of the communication protocol stack support reliable transmission.

41.   (New) The communication module of claim 34 wherein the lower layers of the communication protocol stack comprise a data link layer.

42.   (New) The communication module of claim 34 wherein the lower layers of the communication protocol stack comprise a physical layer.

43.   (New) The communication module of claim 34 wherein the lower layers of the communication protocol stack comprise at least a portion of a network layer.

44.   (New) The communication module of claim 34 wherein the module processor does not perform at least one higher layer function of the communication protocol stack, instead allowing the base module to perform said at least one higher layer function of the communication protocol stack.

45.   (New) The communication module of claim 44 wherein the module processor does not perform the functionality of a sessions layer of the communication protocol stack, instead allowing the base module to perform the functionality of the sessions layer.

46.   (New) The communication module of claim 44 wherein the module processor does not perform the functionality of a transport layer of the communication protocol stack, instead allowing the base module to perform the functionality of the transport layer.

47.   (New) The communication module of claim 34 wherein the module memory is adapted to store, and the module processor is adapted to perform the functionality of, a first subset of a network layer of the communication protocol stack, and wherein the module processor does not perform the functionality of a second subset of the network layer, instead allowing the base module to perform the functionality of the second subset of the network layer.

48.   (New) A portable terminal utilizing a communication protocol stack having higher and lower layers, the portable terminal comprising:

a base module comprising a base processor and a base memory, the base memory storing the higher layers of the communication protocol stack for use by the base processor;

a communication module comprising a module processor, a module memory, and a wireless transceiver;

the module memory storing the lower layers of the communication protocol stack for use by the module processor in communicating with both the base module and the wireless transceiver; and

the base module receiving the communication module in an assembled position which communicatively couples the base processor and module processor.

49.   (New) The portable terminal of claim 48 wherein the module processor, using the lower layers of the communication protocol stack, enables the base processor, using the higher layers of the communication protocol stack, to communicate with the wireless transceiver regardless of which of a plurality of communication modules is selected.

50.   (New) The portable terminal of claim 48 further comprising:
a base connector, disposed on the base module, that is communicatively coupled to the base processor; and

a module connector, disposed on the communication module, that matingly engages the base connector upon receipt of the communication module into the base module in the assembled position.

51.   (New) The portable terminal of claim 48 wherein the higher layers of the communication protocol stack comprise power saving functionality.

52.   (New) The portable terminal of claim 48 wherein the lower layers of the communication protocol stack comprise power saving functionality.

53.   (New) The portable terminal of claim 52 wherein the power saving functionality comprises support for sleeping terminals.

54.   (New) The portable terminal of claim 48 wherein the lower layers of the communication protocol stack comprises support for roaming.

55.   (New) The portable terminal of claim 48 wherein the lower layers of the communication protocol stack support reliable transmission.

56.   (New) The portable terminal of claim 48 wherein the lower layers of the communication protocol stack includes a data link layer.

57.   (New) The portable terminal of claim 48 wherein the lower layers of the communication protocol stack includes at least a portion of a network layer.

58.   (New) A portable terminal utilizing a communication protocol stack having a highest layer, at least one middle layer and a lowest layer, the portable terminal comprising:
   a base module comprising a base processor and a base memory, the base memory storing a first set of instructions comprising at least the highest layer of the communication protocol stack;
   a communication module comprising a module processor, a module memory, and a wireless transceiver;
   the wireless transceiver having a second set of instructions comprising at least the lowest layer of the communication protocol stack;
   the module memory storing the second set of instructions;
   the module processor using the second set of instructions in communicating with both the wireless transceiver and the base module; and
   the base processor using the first set of instructions in communicating with the module processor.

59. (New) The portable terminal of claim 58 wherein the base module receives the communication module in an assembled position to communicatively couple the base processor and module processor.

60. (New) The portable terminal of claim 59 further comprising:

a base connector, disposed on the base module, that is communicatively coupled to the base processor; and

a module connector, disposed the communication modules, that matingly engages the base connector upon receipt of the communication module into the base module in the assembled position.

61. (New) The portable terminal of claim 58 wherein the second set of instructions comprises at least a portion of the at least one middle layer of the communication protocol stack.

62. (New) The portable terminal of claim 61 wherein the at least a portion of the at least one middle layer of the communication protocol stack of the second set of instructions comprises power saving functionality.

63. (New) The portable terminal of claim 62 wherein the power saving functionality comprises support for sleeping terminals.

64. (New) The portable terminal of claim 61 wherein the at least a portion of the at least one middle layer of the communication protocol stack of the second set of instructions comprises support for roaming.

65. (New) The portable terminal of claim 61 wherein the at least a portion of the at least one middle layer of the communication protocol stack of the second set of instructions comprises support reliable transmission.

66. (New) The portable terminal of claim 61 wherein the at least a portion of the at least one middle layer of the communication protocol stack of the second set of instructions includes a data link layer.

67. (New) The portable terminal of claim 61 wherein the at least a portion of the at least one middle layer of the communication protocol stack of the second set of instructions includes at least a portion of a network layer.